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Letter dated 4 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I attach a paper outlining the objectives of Singapore's Presidency of the United Nations Security Council in May 2002.

I would be grateful if the present paper could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kishore **Mahbubani**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

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Annex to the letter dated 4 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Objectives of Singapore's Presidency of the United Nations Security Council in May 2002

Singapore will adopt a results-based approach in carrying out its duties as the President of the United Nations Security Council in May 2002. Our overall objective is to ensure that the Security Council promptly and effectively carries out its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In so doing, we will be largely guided by previous decisions and developments on items on the Security Council's agenda.

In terms of peacekeeping operations, we expect the Security Council to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), establish the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) as a successor mission to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) after East Timor's independence, and consider the appropriate adjustments to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). In terms of sanctions, the Council will review the measures imposed on Liberia, as well as consider the necessary changes to the Iraq Oil for Food Programme. As a prelude to the United Nations General Assembly special session on children, the Council will be having a one-hour event on children and armed conflict. Regarding Africa, the Council will be reviewing the results achieved by the Security Council Mission to the Great Lakes, including identifying the required follow-up action, monitor developments in Somalia, review the outcome of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone, appraise the situation in Eritrea and Ethiopia regarding the implementation of the decision of the Boundary Commission and seek inputs and feedback from the wider United Nations membership on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Africa. The Council will receive updates on the talks on Cyprus and Iraq, as well as maintain its regular focus on the Middle East and Afghanistan. Finally, we intend to hold a wrap-up session at the end of our Presidency to provide an opportunity to examine the work of the Council and identify the useful and positive trends for future guidance.

In considering these issues, we hope to mainstream thematic issues regularly considered by the Security Council including protection of civilians and the long-term engagement of the United Nations in conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building. In particular, we believe that the Council should regularly involve the humanitarian dimension in its deliberations as humanitarian crises are often the symptoms, exacerbating factors as well as causes of conflicts.

Singapore will consolidate the procedural innovations and best practices of previous Presidencies in active agenda management to make Council deliberations more efficient and effective. For better time-management, and in order to make its discussion more interactive and analytical, Singapore has circulated a non-paper laying down some guidelines on working methods. In particular, we hope that by having more thorough advance preparations, each meeting of the Security Council will be more results-oriented.

Singapore is fully aware that in carrying out its Charter responsibility, the Security Council acts on the behalf of States Members of the United Nations. In this regard, Singapore is committed to transparency measures to make the Security Council more open and accountable. We aim to provide as much information as possible on our web site, www.mfa.gov.sg/unsc, and we will remain responsive to the general United Nations membership, other parts of the United Nations family, as well as the members of the press and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).